

# HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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# **TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS**

Planning Board Meeting of January 3, 2008

SDP-07-131, Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. File No./Petitioner:

Wegmans Food Markets, Columbia Sieling Industrial Center, Section **Project Name:** 

1, Area 1, Parcel "D-2"

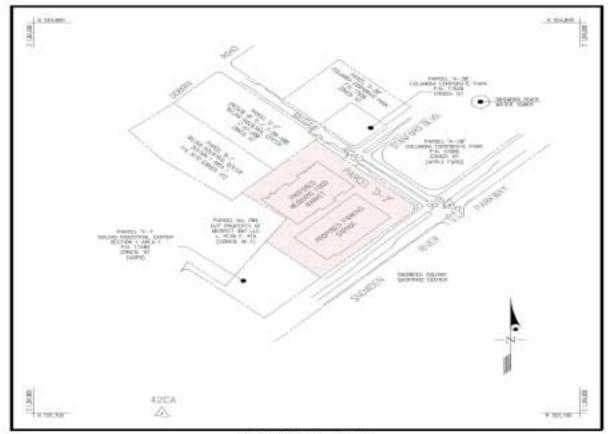
**Request:** The request is for approval of a site development plan (SDP) for the construction

of a two-story food market store, a two-level parking garage structure and associated site improvements in accordance with Final Development Plan (FDP), Phase 117-A-II. The subject property contains approximately 12.2 acres of land

zoned "New Town - Employment Center Industrial".

The subject property, Parcel "D-2" is located on the northwest corner of Snowden Location: River Parkway and McGaw Road, identified as Parcel No. 356 on Tax Map 36,

Grid No. 24 in the Sixth Election District of Howard County, Maryland.



VICINITY MAP

#### **Vicinal Properties:**

This site is located in the Sieling Industrial Center and is surrounded by the following:

**North Side** - To the north are Parcels "B-1" and "C-2", improved with existing warehouse and distribution structures zoned "NT-Employment Center Industrial" and further north is Dobbin Road.

**East Side** - To the east is McGaw Road and further east is the intersection with Stanford Boulevard and Parcels "A-28", "A-38" and "A-39", located within the Columbia Corporate Park, zoned "NT-Employment Center Industrial", improved with the existing Apple Ford auto dealership and the McGaw Plaza business center.

**South Side** - To the south is Snowden River Parkway and further south is the Gateway Commerce Center, zoned "M-1" and the Snowden Square Shopping Center, zoned "B-2".

**West Side** - To the west is Parcel "K-1", zoned "NT-Employment Center Industrial", improved with the existing U.S. Postal Service facility and Parcel No. 284, zoned "M-1", improved with an existing multiple tenant warehouse and distribution structure.

### **Site History:**

- FDP-117, Final Development Plan and Criteria for the subject property was recorded on May 4, 1972.
- FDP-117-A-I, amended FDP was recorded on January 25, 1994 for the purpose to include the use of a communication facility on Open Space Lot 19.
- **FDP-117-A-II**, amended FDP approved by the Planning Board on September 6, 2007 for the purpose to clarify the full service food and grocery store use in the "Employment Center-Industrial" land use area. The FDP was recorded on September 27, 2007.
- **F-72-90**, Final Plan to establish Parcel "D" was recorded on May 31, 1972.
- **F-05-124,** Final Plan to establish Parcel "D-1" was recorded on June 10, 2005.
- **F-07-208**, Final Plan to establish Parcel "D-2" determined technically complete on December 14, 2007.
- SDP-89-05, Site Development Plan for the existing site improvements located on Parcel "D" received signature approval on December 27, 1989.

#### Site Analysis:

**Site Improvements** - The proposed food market is a two-story 40'-8" high structure to the top of a parapet wall with an elevated clock tower with a maximum height elevation of 92.07 feet. The size of the building is approximately 267' x 430' with a gross floor area of 160,000 square feet (116,500 sq. ft. first floor level and a 43,500 sq. ft. mezzanine level). The parking garage is a two level structure with an average height of 20 feet to the parking deck parapet and 36 feet to the top of the stairway towers and is approximately 267' x 485' in size containing a total of 846 parking spaces. In addition to the parking garage, there will be 93 surface parking spaces provided.

**Vehicular Access** - This site is provided access from McGaw Road by a main entrance drive approximately 100 feet in width containing two lanes for each direction separated with a center median island. The main site entrance is located onto McGaw Road directly opposite of the intersection with Stanford

Boulevard. Additionally, a separate 30 foot wide service drive is provided onto McGaw Road located at the northeast corner of the property.

**Storm Water Management (SWM)** - Storm water management for this project is provided by an on-site surface sand filter pond and by an underground facility as part of this SDP.

**Environmental Considerations** - There are no wetlands, streams or 100 year flood plain areas located within the subject property.

**Landscaping** - The Landscape Plan for this project complies with the Howard County Landscape Manual.

**Forest Conservation** - This site is exempt from the Forest Conservation Ordinance in accordance with Section 16.1202(b)(1)(iv) of the Howard County Code, because it is part of a Planned Unit Development (New Town) with Preliminary Plan approval prior to December 31, 1992.

Adequate Public Facilities - An updated APFO roads test was submitted and approved for this project under this SDP and Final Plan, F-07-208 by the DPZ, Development Engineering Division on December 14, 2007. Based on the "Traffic Impact Analysis" submitted for this project and the proposed roadway improvements to be constructed under Final Plan, F-07-208, it has been determined by the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Department of Public Works that capacity and mitigation standards of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance have been met and that roads serving this project will be adequate.

### **Summary of Proposed Road Improvements:**

- The existing northbound double left turn lane along Snowden River Parkway at McGaw Road will be lengthened to allow a total storage of 50 to 55 vehicles at the traffic signal.
- The existing traffic signal on Snowden River Parkway at McGaw Road will be modified as required.
- A new traffic signal will be installed on McGaw Road at Stanford Boulevard and the proposed Wegmans access entrance. The new traffic signal will be interconnected with the existing traffic signal at McGaw Road and Snowden River Parkway to allow free flow movement of traffic making a left turn into the Wegmans access entrance.
- A new double left turn lane will be installed along McGaw Road at the Wegmans access entrance.
- Additional road widening will occur along both the eastbound and westbound lanes of McGaw Road in the vicinity of the Wegmans access entrance.

**FDP Development Criteria Requirements** - This SDP is in compliance with all applicable requirements of FDP-117-A-II, except for the height of the proposed elevated clock tower architectural building feature, as follows:

#### ■ Setback Requirements (Criteria Item 6):

Required - A 50' structure setback is required from a freeway or primary road (principal or intermediate divided arterial highway). A 25' structure

and parking setback is required from any other public road right-of-way. Any structure exceeding 20' in height shall be setback an additional 1' for every 1' in height in excess of 20'. No structure shall be located within 100' of any residential district.

<u>Provided</u> - The proposed food market and parking garage structures both comply with the required setbacks. Additionally, the surface parking lot spaces comply with the setback requirement.

#### Permitted Land Uses (Criteria Item 7):

The proposed food market is a permitted land use in the "New Town-Employment Center Industrial" zoning district per recorded FDP-117-A-II. An FDP amendment to clarify that a large full service food and grocery store is permitted as one of the commercial uses ancillary to or compatible with the permitted industrial uses was approved by the Planning Board at a meeting on September 6, 2007.

#### ■ Height Requirement (Criteria Item 8):

There is a 50' height limitation for structures located within this phase of the Sieling Industrial Center of Columbia, however, structures may be constructed to any height provided it is shown on an SDP approved by the Planning Board. The proposed food market is a two-story 40'-8" high structure to the top of a parapet wall with an elevated clock tower with a height elevation of 92.07 feet. The proposed height for the elevated clock tower requires approval from the Planning Board for a height adjustment beyond the 50' height requirement. The parking garage is a two level structure with a maximum height of 36 feet high to the top of the stairway towers.

#### ■ Parking Requirements (Criteria Item 9):

FDP-117-A-II and Section 133.D of the Howard County Zoning Regulations require 5 parking spaces for each 1,000 square feet of net leasable floor area devoted to commercial retail sales. The total parking space requirement for this project is 800 spaces based on 160,000 square feet of floor area. This SDP is providing a total of 939 parking spaces (93 surface parking spaces and 846 garage parking spaces).

#### ■ Lot Coverage (Criteria Item 12):

There is a 50% lot coverage requirement imposed for structures within this phase of the Sieling Industrial Center of Columbia, except as shown on an SDP approved by the Planning Board. The proposed total building coverage for this project is 47.4% (includes both the food store and parking garage structure).

#### **SRC Action:**

On December 19, 2007, the Subdivision Review Committee (SRC) determined that this SDP may be approved. Final Plan, F-07-208 was determined technically complete by the SRC on December 14, 2007.

Please note that this file is available for public review at the Department of Planning and Zoning's public service counter, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Recommendation:

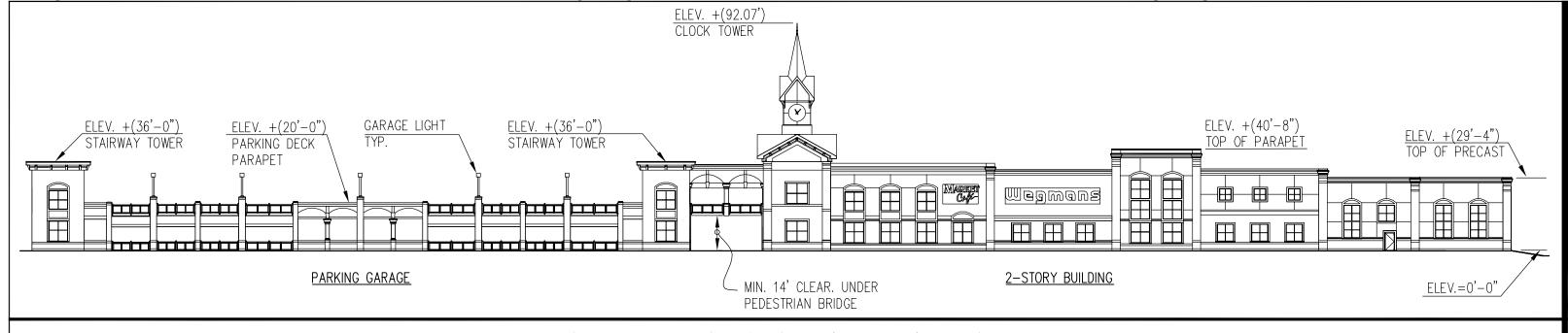
The Department of Planning and Zoning recommends that the Planning Board approve this SDP, subject to compliance with the SRC agency comments issued for SDP-07-131 and Final Plan, F-07-208.

12/20/07

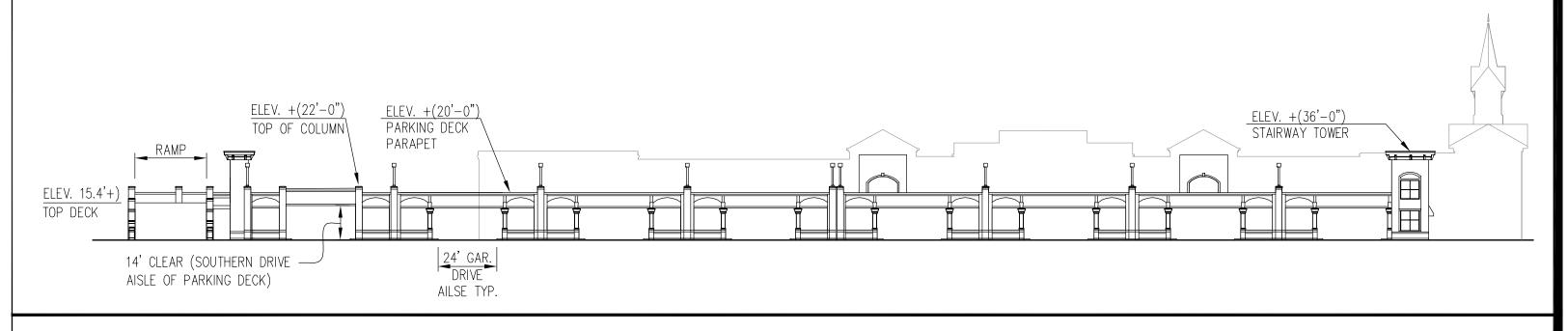
Date

Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning





# NORTH ELEVATION (FRONTAGE on McGAW ROAD)



EAST ELEVATION (FRONTAGE on SNOWDEN RIVER PARKWAY)

